

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7803

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MOBUTU SPEECH MARKS 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF MPR

1. TO MARK 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MPR, MOBUTU GAVE TWO HOUR EXTEMPRANEOUS SPEECH IN LINGALA MAY 19 BEFORE MASS MEETING IN KINSHASA STADIUM. DELEGATIONS FROM NORTH KOREA, SENEGAL, EGYPT, GABON AND TOGO IN ATTENDANCE ALONG WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS. EXCEPT FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ARREST OF 501 CRIMINALS, INCLUDING BAND OF 48 "ASSASSINS" ACCUSED OF RECENT MURDERS OF SIX PERSONS IN KINSHASA, PRESIDENT SAID NOTHING THAT WAS BASICALLY NEW. TONE OF SPEECH GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO FOREIGNERS WORKING IN ZAIRE AND TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. US GIVEN GOOD MARKS FOR HELPING ZAIRE AND FOR GIVING AID, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS, TO DROUGHT STRICKEN SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.

2. SPEECH DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS DEALING WITH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLITICIES OF ZAIRE. SUMMARY FOLLOWS.

A. CRIME IN KINSHASA. MOBUTU ACKNOWLEDGED RECENT WAVE OF THEFTS, ROBBERIES AND MURDERS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO EMPTY KINSHASA AFTER DARK. HE SAID CHAOTIC PERIOD OF INSECURITY THAT

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EXISTED PRIOR TO 1965 COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

HE THEN ANNOUNCED THAT RECENT POLICE AND MILITARY OPERATIONS HAD NETTED 501 CRIMINALS INCLUDING 48 "ASSISSINS" ACCUSED OF RECENT MURDERS OF SIX CITIZENS. HEAVILY GUARDED GROUP OF 48 THEN PARADED AROUND STADIUM WITH CROWD SHOUTING FOR THEIR EXECUTION. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ORDER THEIR EXECUTION, MOBUTU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PUTTING THE 48 IN PRISON WOULD BE FUTILE BECAUSE THEY WOULD BRIBE THEMSELVES OUT. ROUNDING OUT HIS COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, HE SAID THAT THE ASSISINS ARE FINISHED, SECURITY HAS BEEN RESTORED, AND PEOPLE CAN GO TO THE CINEMA AGAIN WITHOUT FEAR.

B. ZAIRIANIZATION MEASSURES AND PRICES. STATING THAT FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, HE HAD HAD CONSTANT HEADACHES DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE TAKE OVER OF FOREIGN BUSINESSES BY ZAIRIANS, MOBUTU SAID THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ZAIRIANIZATION WORK BY HIMSELF, THE VIGILANCE OF ALL WAS NEEDED TO PREVENT ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW OWNERS WERE PROPERLY MANAGING THEIR BUSINESSES. CONCERNING HIGH PRICES, HE PLACED MOST OF THE BLAME ON NEW ZAIRIAN OWNERS, IN EFFECT ACCUSING THEM OF GOUGING THE PUBLIC, HE SAID THAT THE PRICE OF A PIECE OF CLOTH IS DIFFERENT IN EVERY STORE AND MANY ITEMS HAVE DOUBLED IN PRICE SINCE NOVEMBER 30. ON THE SUBJECT OF DEVELOPMENT, HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ZAIRE TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD.

C. GASOLINE PRICES. MOBUTU REPEATED THAT HE HAD HELD OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BEFORE RAISING GASOLINE PRICES (THE COST OF A LITER OF SUPER GASOLINE WAS RECENTLY INCREASED BY ABOUT 100 PERCENT FORM 11 MAKUTA (22 CENTS) TO 20.50 MAKUTA (41 CENTS). HOWEVER, PETROZAIRE, THE NEW NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY FORMED BY NATIONALIZING FOREIGN OIL DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, HAD LOST DOLS 40,000,000 AND A PRICE INCREASE WAS ESSENTIAL. HE BLAMED MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES FOR THEIR LACK OF COOPERATION WHICH HAD MADE THE NATIONALIZATION NECESSARY. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PRESIDENT PRAISED IRAN FOR BEING THE ONLY COUNTRY WILLING TO SELL OIL TO ZAIRE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

D. ZAIRE AND THE WORLD. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY, MOBUTU STRESSED THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF ZAIRE AS AN INFLUENTIAL COUNTRY AND POINTED TO THE FACT THAT ALL THE MAJOR POWERS HAD EMBASSIES IN KINSHASA.  
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3. ZAIRE AND AFRICA. ZAIRE'S AFRICAN VOCATION WAS UNDER- LINED. ZIARE WOULD CONTINUE TO FULLY SUPPORT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HE SAID. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ZAIRE WAS ONLY AFRICAN COUNTRY GIVING AID TO STRICKEN SAHELIAN NATIONS AND URGED AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DO MORE FOR THEMSELVES.

F. ZAIRE AND BELGIUM. MOBUTU REITERATED THAT

CRITICISM OF ZAIRE AND HIMSELF BY BELGIAN WRITERS AND PRESS HAD BECOME INTOLERABLE. MOREOVER, CONTROL BY SMALL BELGIUM OF BIG ZAIRE WAS AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY AND INCONGRUOUS IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT OF ZAIRE'S STATUS AS A NATION. THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT URBAN THAT THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD GIVE WAY TO AN "ORDINARY" RELATIONSHIP.

3. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CRIMINALS AND ASSASSINS (WHOSE ACTIVITIES HAVE RECENTLY CREATED CLIMATE OF INSECURITY IN KINSHASA) HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, THE MOBUTU SPEECH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE VERY SATISFACTORY TO THE MAN IN THE STREET WHO IS SUFFERING FROM HIGH PRICES AND A WAGE SCALE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN INCREASED SINCE OCTOBER 1971. RECENT SHARP INCREASE IN COST OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAS ALSO CAUSED MUCH DISTRESS. FULL TRANSLATION TO FOLLOW.  
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